This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Target-specific, near-infrared photoimmunotherapy to treat cancer	<p>Mouse studies suggest near-infrared photoimmunotherapy could be used to treat cancer. A near-infrared dye was conjugated to the epidermal growth factor receptor 1 (EGFR1; HER1; ERBB1)-targeting mAb Vectibix panitumumab or to the HER2 (EGFR2; ERBB2; neu)-targeting mAb Herceptin trastuzumab. In mice with HER1- and HER2-positive tumors, the resulting dye-mAb conjugates plus near-infrared irradiation decreased tumor volume compared with conjugates delivered without irradiation. Next steps include toxicology studies and GMP production of the conjugates.</p> <p>Vectibix panitumumab is marketed by Amgen Inc. and Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. to treat metastatic colorectal cancer. Herceptin trastuzumab is marketed by Roche's Genentech Inc. unit to treat breast and gastric cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 4(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1280 Published online Nov. 17, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; unlicensed	<p>Mitsunaga, M. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Nov. 6, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2554</p> <p>Contact: Hisataka Kobayashi, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: kobayash@mail.nih.gov</p>